

IN THE CLAIMS

21. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting a mirrored service in a network environment, the system comprising:

first and a second border routers;

a director response protocol agent coupled to the first and second and border routers and configured to receive a first border gateway protocol attribute related to a first mirrored service from the first border router and a second border gateway protocol attribute related to a second mirrored service from the second border router, said first mirrored service and said second mirrored service in a same autonomous system, ~~said director response protocol agent configured to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a first multi-exit discriminator (MED); and~~

a distributed director coupled with the first and second protocol agents to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected, **wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a first multi-exit discriminator (MED).**

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the second border gateway protocol attribute is a second multi-exit discriminator.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the predetermined criteria is a smaller one of the first multi-exit discriminator (MED) and the second multi-exit discriminator (MED).

24. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting a mirrored service in a network environment, the system comprising:

first and a second border routers;

a director response protocol agent coupled to the first and second and border routers and configured to receive a first border gateway protocol attribute related to a first mirrored service from the first border router and a second border gateway protocol attribute related to a second mirrored service from the second border router, said first mirrored service and said second mirrored service in a same autonomous system, ~~said director response protocol agent configured to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a community attribute;~~ and

a distributed director coupled with the first and second protocol agents to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected, **wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a community attribute.**

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the predetermined criteria is a predetermined community attribute.